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Military Space

**Coming
Of Age**



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Altus Reaches 43,500 ft.

Los Angeles

The General Atomics Altus 2 drone climbed to 43,500 ft. in recent tests of high-altitude performance and handling while carrying a 300-lb. simulated payload. The 55-ft.-span drone is sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, Calif., and its Altus 1 sister ship was built for NASA Dryden's Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program. Altus 1 had previously reached more than 37,000 ft. The high-altitude tests support the ERAST goal of reaching 65,000 ft. General Atomics is integrating a two-stage turbocharger into Altus 1's Rotax 912 piston engine to attempt to meet the goal. ➔

